



Focus on Automatic Tank Gauges

from Ecology's Toxic Cleanup Program

For Underground Storage Tanks

Contact your local UST inspector with further questions at the Department of Ecology:

Regional Offices

Central -- Yakima
(509) 575-2490

Eastern – Spokane
(509) 329-3400

Northwest -- Bellevue
(425) 649-7000

Southwest -- Lacey
(360) 407-6300

If you have a leak or spill, shut down the tank system and immediately notify the appropriate local authorities through the 9-1-1 emergency notification system.

You must also notify the Department of Ecology immediately, if the release threatens or comes into contact with surface water, groundwater, or soil.

Owners shall immediately take action to contain and cleanup any release.

What is an Automatic Tank Gauge (ATG)?

An ATG is equipment that tests for the loss of fuel from an underground storage tank (UST). It performs a 0.2 gallon per hour (gal/hr) leak test on each tank or compartment. It prints the pass/fail leak test results on-site or sends the test results by modem to an off-site location.

How often must checks be done?

Daily (or weekly)

- Check the printout -- **each tank should pass** a 0.2 gal/hr leak test.
- Contact a tank service provider, if the ATG does not print out the leak test.

Monthly

- Keep **one** passing leak test printout per month for each tank.

Annually (or periodically)

- Follow manufacturer's instructions to have the ATG equipment checked.

Keep the following records for five years:

- Monthly ATG leak test results (printouts)
- All calibration, maintenance, and repair records for the ATG
- Third Party Certification of the ATG.

What is Third Party Certification for ATGs?

An independent company certifies that the ATG model testing followed EPA's standard test procedures for leak detection. The manufacturer provides a copy of this third party certification for each ATG model.

- Recommend that new installations use ATG models approved by the National Work Group on Leak Detection Evaluations (NWGLDE).
- Find ATG models on the NWGLDE website http://nwglde.org/method_index.html.
- Contact an UST inspector, if the ATG model is not on the NWGLDE list.

Must an annual ATG check be conducted?

- Yes, if the manufacturer and/or third party certification requires it.
- Recommend the check be done annually, if no **frequency** is given.
- Keep **written documentation** that proves the ATG is operating per manufacturer and/or third party certification requirements.

Must the annual ATG check be done, if the manufacturer states their ATG is self-testing?

- Yes, if there is ancillary equipment, like sump sensors, that can be placed incorrectly.
- No, if the ATG manufacturer can prove that the model is self-testing.

Who can operate, repair, or install the ATG?

- A **tank operator** can retrieve reports, test alarms, and run test mode.
- A **manufacturer trained technician** can conduct the annual ATG checks, make necessary repairs, and calibrate equipment.
- An International Code Council (**ICC**) **certified** installation supervisor can install an ATG.

What's done if the leak test runs once a week, but it's not passing due to low fuel level?

- Try having the ATG programmed to run the leak test every night.
- Check the third party certification; some ATGs need the tank **30-50% full** to pass.
- Call a tank service provider to recommend more options.

What's done if the station switched to 24-hr service, but the ATG cannot be upgraded?

- Try having the ATG programmed to run the leak test every night, or
- Shut down the tanks one night per month to get a valid leak test result, or
- Install a new ATG that conducts the 0.2 gal/hr leak test during 24-hour service.

Is the tank leaking if the ATG printout shows a failed leak test or if there is an alarm?

- Check the ATG manual, which explains different types of alarms and test results.
- Call a tank service provider to trouble shoot and fix the problem.
- Resolve all failed test results and alarms **quickly** to determine if there is a leak.

For more information, refer to the Underground Storage Tank regulations Chapter 173-360 WAC. Tank owners and operators are responsible for adhering to these regulations to prevent and detect leaks that can harm human health and the environment. Proper operation and maintenance of your UST system can help ensure public safety and **protect the investment in your property.**